

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2007

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rangel:

We are writing to thank you for your work in developing a new trade policy for America and to strongly urge you to use the proposal you recently outlined as the firm bottom line from which you build in your negotiations with the Administration.

We stand behind you in your efforts to craft a new trade model, and from the information available your proposal certainly moves us in a positive direction. However, we know that there is much left to do if we are to achieve a trade policy which will work for America's working families, farmers, businesses, the environment and our local communities. We hope to be able to work with you to develop the details of this proposal and make improvements where they are necessary.

Based on the Bush Administration's past record on trade, we are concerned they will make every attempt to negotiate down from your proposal. For this reason, we strongly urge you not to back down from any of the goals you have proposed. This is especially true for your commitment to reclaim Congress's constitutional authority and responsibility to oversee U.S. trade policy, rather than ceding it to the President.

We support trade, but agree with you that we must move our nation's trade policy in a new direction that will not continue to leave America's workers and businesses at a disadvantage. A new trade model could be a tool to help raise the living standards of people in developing countries, but we must ensure that it works for Americans as well.

Once again, we support your efforts to craft a new trade policy for our nation and strongly urge you to use your proposal as the firm bottom line from which you build in your negotiations with the Administration. Only by making meaningful changes in our trade policy can we fulfill our responsibility to the American people to move our nation forward. Thank you again for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Betty Sutton *Michael H. Michael* *Phil Hane*
Linda T. Guckey *Carol Shea-Poore* *Marey Kaptur*

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